

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 11-15, 18, and 26-29 are pending in the application, with 1, 4, 7, 11, 12, and 18 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 11, 12, and 29 have been amended. Claims 2, 5, and 19-22 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7-9 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

In the Office Action, claims 11-15 and 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 "because the claims are directed to a signal and data burst that contains non-functional descriptive material." Applicants have amended independent claims 11 and 12 as suggested by the Examiner. Amended independent claims 11 and 12 recite "A wireless link signal for wireless transceiver communication."

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection as to independent claims 11, 12 and their respective dependent claims 13-15 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. §101 are therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Scott, *et al*, U.S. Patent 6,388,997 (Scott) in view of Dahlin, U.S. Patent 5,042,082 (Dahlin). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In rejecting claim 1, the Office Action states that although Scott "does not disclose a method of receiving a burst with a time slot indication indicating a time slot within which the burst was transmitted," a method of transmitting timeslot indication indicating the position of a time slot in the frame that carries control information is "well known in the art," as evidenced by the teachings of Dahlin. (Office Action, pp. 2-3). The Examiner therefore concludes that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Scott and Dahlin to achieve applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's understanding of Scott and Dahlin.

In Applicants' invention, instead of allocating a unique transmission slot to the mobile transceiver, as is described in Scott and Dahlin, a sequential group of time slots is made available and the mobile transceiver selects one of them. To indicate which time slot was selected, the mobile transceiver transmits a time slot indication. This time slot indication allows for a timing correction to be calculated. Thus, unlike Scott and Dahlin, Applicants' invention can be used where the variation in propagation delay is greater than the slot length. In an example embodiment described in Applicants' specification, the

maximum variation in delay propagation is about 40 ms and the timing allocation group slot length is 5 ms. (Specification, p. 11, line 12 - p. 14, line 22).

In Scott, a unique transmission time slot is allocated to each transceiver. (Scott, Col. 7, lines 60-62). This assignment of a unique transmission time slot is possible because the variation in round trip propagation delay is a few tens of microseconds. (Scott, Col. 8, lines 12-20). The propagation delay in Scott is enough to affect the required guard time between slots but not enough to cause uncertainty as to which slot is being used for transmission. Scott does not teach or suggest "receiving at the mobile transceiver a time slot allocation indicating a sequential plurality of time slots available to the mobile transceiver in the channel; selecting one of said time slots", as recited in Applicants' amended independent claims 1.

Dahlin describes the use of time slot identifiers to identify bursts so that their signal strength can be measured for the purpose of possible handoff. (Dahlin, Abstract). Dahlin does not teach or suggest "transmitting to the mobile transceiver a time slot allocation indicating a sequential plurality of time slots available to the mobile transceiver in a time-slotted channel", as recited in Applicants amended claim 1.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Scott and Dahlin. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

As in the Office Action dated July 17, 2003, the present Office Action rejects claim 18 for the same reasons as claim 1. As discussed in Applicants' Amendment and Reply filed December 17, 2003, the subject matter of claim 18 is distinct from that of claim 1. The Examiner has not explained why the features of claim 18 could be found in the combination of Scott and Dahlin. Therefore, Applicants cannot address the

references relative to this claim. It is respectfully requested that, if the Examiner does not believe that the foregoing arguments are sufficient to place this application in condition for allowance, he issue a new, non-final Office Action stating the specific ground of rejection to be applied against claim 18.

In the rejection of independent claim 4, the Examiner appears to treat independent claim 4 as a dependent claim of claim 1. As amended, independent claim 4 relates to a method corresponding to claim 1, but recites the steps carried out by the mobile transceiver rather than the network, as in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit the Examiner should have addressed the patentability of claims 1 and 4 together. As discussed above, neither Scott nor Dahlin teach or suggest "receiving at the mobile transceiver a time slot allocation indicating a sequential plurality of time slots available to the mobile transceiver in the channel; selecting one of said time slots", as recited in amended claim 4. For at least these reasons, claim 4 is patentable over the combination of Scott and Dahlin. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 4, and 18 and their respective dependent claims 3 and 6 are patentable over the combination of Scott and Dahlin. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Scott and Dahlin in view of Kronz, WO 99/00931 (Kronz). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 6 depends from claim 4. The differences between the subject matter of claim 4 and the combination of Scott and Dahlin have been discussed above.

Kronz adds nothing to the combination of Scott and Dahlin that overcomes their deficiencies relative to the herein claimed invention. For at least these reasons, claim 6 is patentable over the combination of Scott and Dahlin in view of Kronz.

Other Matters

In Applicants' Amendment and Reply filed December 17, 2003, Applicants added new claim 29, which is dependent from claim 4. The present Office Action does not include a discussion of claim 29. It is respectfully requested that, if the Examiner does not believe that the foregoing arguments are sufficient to place this application in condition for allowance, a non-final Office Action stating the specific ground of rejection to be applied against claim 29 be issued.

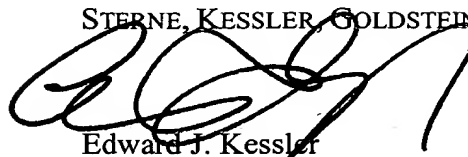
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Edward J. Kessler, is written over the firm name.

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